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# The Times

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### S'more fun in the snow

More than a dozen highlanders braved the first frigid night of 2023 and trekked through Abbey Gardens under the Wolf Moon on Saturday, Jan. 7, before returning to toasty fires and "build your own s'more" kits at Haliburton Highlands Brewing. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Times



## Ice racing returns to Minden Fairgrounds

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

Ice racing in Minden will be making its triumphant return this winter season. Despite tepid temperatures and an overall absence of

snow, ice racing director Brad Elkins is confident that the popular event will be proceeding as planned. "We may lose a weekend at the start," he said, "but thaws happen all the time between Christmas and New Year's, we've always got rain days set up for this reason."

The desired kick-off for the ice racing season is Jan. 21. "Hopefully it'll cool off a bit before then," said Elkins. Racing is held at the Minden Fairgrounds, and is spearheaded by the Minden Kin Club. The event has been held annually since the late 1970's, with the exception of a brief hiatus during the

pandemic.

"The track is laid out, then repeatedly coated with water until a thick layer of ice is built up between the snowbanks that delineate the course," the Kin Club website noted. Traditionally, it was held on a variety

see ICE page 2

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# Ice racing fit for the family

from page 1

of lakes in the region, but unpredictable weather patterns encouraged the usage of a consistent, human-made track, which was when the Kin Club moved to the Fairgrounds.

"We've built this event up a lot over the past five years or so," said Elkins, "it's become a big thing in Minden, and we see a lot of the local businesses getting a boost from it as well."

He also noted that it's a great event for the whole family, and a fun activity to do with young kids during a quiet winter season. "I have a great photo from last year," he recalled, "of these two parents and a young kid sitting on a snowbank, watching the races, and just taking it all in."

Ice racing runs for six consecutive weekends, starting at the end of January. As Elkins noted, there are always buffer weekends at the end of the season to make up for missed days due to inclement weather. "We are moving forward with it," said Elkin, "everyone should come check it out."

Admission is free for all to attend, and warm food and beverages are available to purchase onsite at the Minden Fairgrounds. The full schedule for ice racing can be found on the Minden Kin Club website, at [www.mindenkin.club](http://www.mindenkin.club).



Amelia and Victoria Sulley, from Toronto, take in the races and some hot chocolate last February. /FILE

## Robinson's closed for now

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

The historic Robinson's General Store in Dorset has closed its doors temporarily. As of Jan. 8 at 5 p.m., a sign appeared on the front door of the store, letting customers know that the "store is temporarily closed until further notice." On their Google listing, their hours of operation have been changed to a red bar stating "temporarily closed," and their voicemail cuts to dead air.

The news of the closure has left many locals scrambling to understand the sudden change, and wondering what the next steps will be.

Mike Hinbest, who took over ownership of Robinson's in 2021, told the *Times* that his family has run into a series of personal and financial hardships over the past year. "We've lost everything," said Hinbest, "we poured every single thing we had into this business."

Hinbest said that he has received a series of threats and negative backlash from the online world, but he and his family have tried everything to make the store work. Between interest rates rising and the housing market crashing, Hinbest feels he has no other choices but to move on.

The Hinbest family are in the process of transacting the business back to the Robinson family, with whom they have had transparent communications with throughout the years, and were aware of this change. He noted that prior to the closure, he spoke to every single employee at Robinson's, and each one of them was empathetic to the Hinbests' personal situation. "The people who really know the story, they're the ones who really care for us."

Hinbest gave a shout-out to the community, for the support and care him and his family have received during this challenging time. He hopes that one day, he can continue to give back to the community in some capacity moving forward.

## Warmer, wet weather closes Nordic ski trails

by JAMES MATTHEWS  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

All trails maintained by the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association remain closed because of weather.

The association maintains three cross-country ski trail systems. Glebe Park has 13.5 kilometres of trail; the Twin Lakes network has seven kilometres; and the Moosewoods run has 12.5 kilometres of trail.

Thom Lambert, the association's president, said winter sport enthusiasts enjoyed great skiing on a fairly good snow base just after Christmas. But then milder temperatures brought with the new year melted snow on local trails. As a result, there's no way to know when the trails will be opened.

He said the association could open some of the trails with as little as five to 10 centimetres of snow.

"This time of year, one good snowfall can put us back on track," he said. "We lost most of our base when it started raining. One of our challenges is that we have not had a good spell of very cold temperatures that would freeze the ground."

In such conditions, the snow melts beneath itself and requires constant snowfall to accommodate skiers. Water continues to run over the thawed ground, which hastens the snow melt.

The association typically opens its trail network just after Christmas. But, even after last season's opening on Jan. 10, the group experienced a great ski season last year.

Lambert suggested an uncooperative Mother Nature may be indication of an emerging trend.

"There is no doubt that climate change is going to make traditional winter recreation in the Haliburton Highlands more challenging," he said. "Overall temperatures are rising, and weather events are getting more severe."

"All of this requires infrastructure investment." The association will need to undertake off-season trail work to improve drainage. Terrain will also need to be smoothed, almost as the trails are groomed during the ski season.

And, he said, such expensive work will require money.

"As an organization, we need to acknowledge these conditions and begin planning for their effects," Lambert said.

## Minden water levels higher than 'normal'

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

Water levels are noticeably higher on the Gull River through Minden village than what they have been in the past, at this time of year. "Last week's rain and warm temperatures melted accumulated snow and contributed significant runoff into local water bodies," said Adam Wakefield, District Manager of the Bracebridge-Minden-Parry Sound District of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

While Wakefield noted that levels are higher than "normal" for this time of year, he also told the *Times* that the water flows seem to have stabilized on managed lakes, and the levels are beginning to trend downwards in some areas.

"With overnight low temperatures forecasted below minus 10 degrees Celsius this week, we anticipate water levels and flows will continue to drop," he said.

It was noted that as of Jan. 9, regions closer to Buckhorn, Lakefield, and Peterborough are experiencing flood watch conditions. Wakefield noted that for additional and current information about the provincial flood forecast, visit [www.gisapplication.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/flood/](http://gisapplication.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/flood/).



The MNRF noted that while water levels on the Gull River are higher than "normal" for this time of year, it is likely that they will level out over the next few weeks. /EMILY STONEHOUSE, staff

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# Razzamataz kicks off 2023 with dance

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

Razzamataz Kids' Shows is kickstarting the new year with colour, culture, and dance. On Saturday, Jan. 14 and Sunday, Jan. 15, Razz will present two special events featuring the Indigenous dance group, Odawa Wiingushk.

"Haliburton sits on the traditional territory of several Indigenous groups including the Ojibway, Huron/Wendat, Mohawk, Pottawatomi and Metis Nations," said Nicole Stewart, the Chair of Razzamataz. "These events are important because it allows for us to take a moment to recognize and celebrate this, through learning more about Indigenous culture and sharing in their dance."

On Saturday, there will be a workshop offered at Haliburton School of Art + Design from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., and will be an opportunity for participants to learn about Indigenous dance, history, culture, regalia, and the relationship to the land. This will be a very interactive workshop, with kids being invited to learn different Indigenous dances and practices. The workshop is designed for ages six to 16.

On Sunday, Odawa Wiingushk will be at the Northern Lights Performing Arts

Pavillion, to perform a series of traditional Indigenous dances, with a special surprise for the audience at the end.

"This is a very unique project funded by Ontario Presents," said Stewart. "It is aimed at shining a spotlight on under-served artists who are often made invisible by barriers such as race, language, and sexual orientation and in this case, a colonial legacy." Stewart noted that the intention of the project is to actively connect with children by sharing Indigenous dance traditions in an immersive and participatory experience.

This is not the only show Razzamataz has planned for the 2023 year. The group is dedicated to bringing affordable and high-quality theatre and arts to children and their families in Haliburton County. They also strive to diversify the types of performances in the community, including different types of art such as dance, music, acrobatics, puppetry, poetry, and more.

You can register for the Odawa Wiingushk show by visiting [www.razzamataz.ca](http://www.razzamataz.ca).

Tickets for the workshop on the 14 are \$10 and include lunch and admission to the performance the following day. If you do not attend the workshop on the 14, you can purchase tickets for the show on the 15 at 2 p.m. for \$7 for children and \$10 for adults.



Razzamataz Kids' Shows are presenting their first show of 2023 with the Indigenous dance group, Odawa Wiingushk. There will be a workshop for children to learn traditional dances on Jan. 14, followed by a performance of the group on Jan. 15. / PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Township planning March break for kids

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

The Township of Minden Hills wrapped up their winter break programming this past week. "Our winter break programs were a huge success," said Tanya Budgen, manager of parks, recreation, and facilities for the township, "we were able to offer a variety of programs for different age groups...the feedback from the community this week was very positive."

The inspiration for the children's programming stemmed from a successful fall season, with Budgen noting that they offered "Stay and Play" drop-in programs, NERF Wars, and babysitting courses. All of the programs

did exceedingly well, with most filling up quickly. "With the success of the township's fall programs, I decided to offer more programs for children," said Budgen.

Budgen noted that many programs will continue throughout the winter season, such as after-school yoga, dodgeball, basketball, dance, and gym club. These programs do require registration to participate, which can be accessed by visiting [www.mindenhill.ca](http://www.mindenhill.ca), or by calling 705-286-1260 ext. 551.

With March break around the corner, Budgen happily announced that the township will also be offering a full-day March break day camp, where parents can register their children for either one day at a time, or for the duration of the week. She encouraged families to stay in the loop via social media and the township website.

## COVID-19 Outbreak in Haliburton Hospital Over

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the In-patient Department of the Haliburton Hospital is over. There were a total of 9 patients cases during the outbreak, which was declared by the HHSS Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Department on Dec. 18, 2022.

Regular activities for the In-patient Department will now resume, including receiving new admissions and allowing up to 2

visitors at a time for each inpatient.

Staff will continue to follow Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures in the In-patient Department, including mandatory masking in all patient care areas, mandatory vaccination, and regular surveillance testing before entry into the In-Patient Department.

*Submitted by Haliburton Highlands Health Services*

[www.mindenhill.ca](http://www.mindenhill.ca)

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### (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice.

Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

**January 12 – Regular Council Meeting**  
**January 26 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at [mindenhill.ca/council/](http://mindenhill.ca/council/) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our website at [mindenhill.ca/council/](http://mindenhill.ca/council/). Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

### WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense

### RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

Drink pouches, chip bags, straws and disposable cutlery are not recyclable. Please place these items in your garbage. For more info on recycling in Minden Hills, download the Haliburton County Waste Wizard mobile app on your Apple or Android device.

### A MESSAGE FROM

### THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fires can start accidentally in your chimney. Soot and fuel residues slowly build up in chimneys over time and can catch fire. If this happens, the chimney could send burning soot into your home or start fires within the roof space or on other floors of the house. Even if it doesn't burn the house down, a chimney fire can cause a huge mess. You can help prevent this by having your chimney swept regularly.

### SNOW REMOVAL

Pushing snow across roads and streets is not only a safety hazard; it is also against the law. The Ontario Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181.



Trekkers enjoy the bonfire under the full moon at Haliburton Highlands Brewing. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Times

### Howling at the Wolf Moon

The group poses for a photo under the Wolf Moon during a hike through the gardens.

## Local curler sweeps towards Switzerland

by JAMES MATTHEWS  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton's Jacob Dobson and his teammates swept their way to Switzerland.

The Dobson rink went undefeated in seven outings for 120 tournament points to earn the Under-21 Canadian Junior Cup in Oshawa at the end of December. They competed against teams from Ontario, the United States, and a contingent from Switzerland.

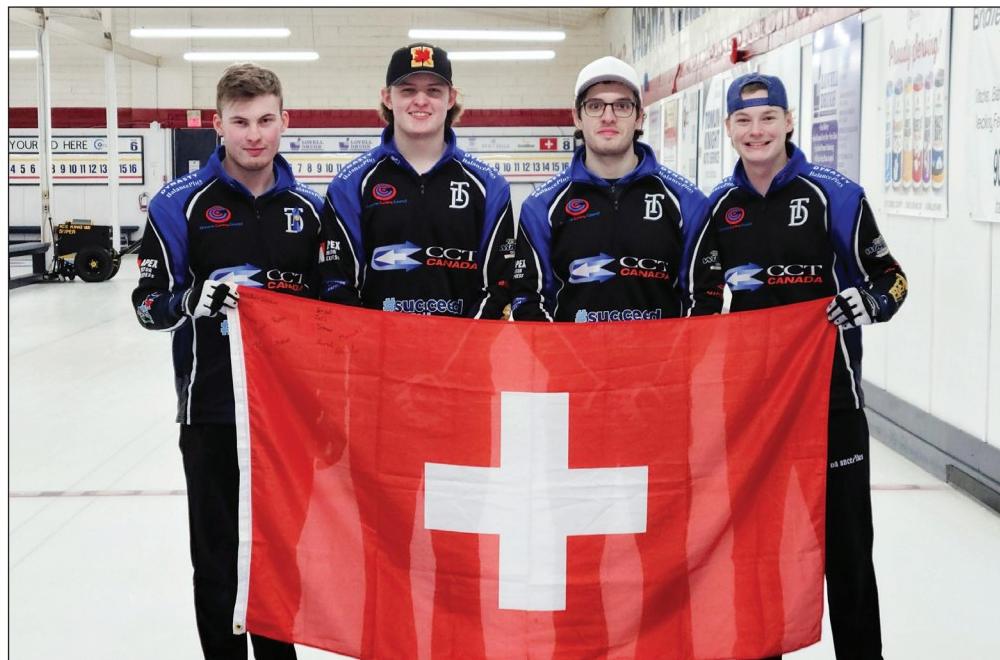
The crew that curls out of the Burlington Golf and Country Club is comprised of skip Dobson, third Noah Garner, second Daniel Del Conte, and lead Nolan Galardo.

If the hardware and bragging rights aren't good enough, the Dobson crowd also netted a trip to throw rocks in Switzerland later this year.

"I've been playing for a while and had a couple good runs with a couple teams," he said.

Dobson has been curling since he was in Grade 4, he said. He pursued the sport through to his high school years and even now in post-secondary school. He's the skip on the Humber College men's team.

Owen Nicholls, another curler from Haliburton, won sil-



Jacob Dobson, left, of Haliburton County has been curling since he was in Grade 4, and has just successfully skipped his team to a 7-0 undefeated sweep of the Canadian Junior Cup. /PHOTO SUBMITTED

ver in Oshawa as a member of Team Stratton. Nicholls and Dobson curled on the same team that won the 2019 Ontario School Curling Provincial Championships and again at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations level in March 2020.

But they and everybody else were sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic that ground life to a halt.

Curling's pebbled ice never loses its shine, whether at the provincial, national, or college level.

"All the big [bonspiels] that I've been able to compete in or win so far are ones that I really had my mind set in trying to get to for a long time," Jacobs said.

"And try to knock off championships along the way is something that I keep looking forward to."

He said the Oshawa bonspiel drew most of the top rinks from throughout Ontario. Dobson said he and his rink had previously competed against many of the teams that threw stones at the Canadian Junior Cup.

Being highly challenged consistently elevates their level of play, and that should translate well on international ice.

"We got to play all those teams again, and it was some of the best curling that I probably played in my life," the skip said. "It helps us prepare for ... putting the Maple Leaf on our back and representing Canada."

## ATV crash takes life of Dysart man

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are at the scene of a fatal all-terrain vehicle (ATV) collision on Highway 35 in the Township of Algonquin Highlands in the County of Haliburton.

On Jan. 8, just before 7:30 a.m., officers and emergency services responded to a single ATV collision on Highway 35 near Matabanick Road in the Township of Algonquin Highlands. The lone rider was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The deceased has been identified as a 43-year-old male of the Municipality of Dysart et al.

OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists are assisting with the investigation. Highway 35 will be closed in both directions between Highway 118 and Kushog Lake Road for several hours for the investigation.

Anyone with any information in relation to this investigation is asked to call the Haliburton Highlands OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Submitted by the  
Haliburton Highlands OPP

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# HOS receives \$92,100 grant for pilot projects

by VIVIAN COLLINGS  
Times Staff

Opera programs in Haliburton County are going up an octave thanks to a \$92,100 Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Resilient Communities grant.

Highlands Opera Studio (HOS) received the grant in the summer of 2022 to fund their most recent pilot projects.

A reception was held on Thursday, Jan. 6 at the Haliburton Highlands Museum by HOS where Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott spoke about the significance of the grant.

"This investment, provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, is creating more opportunities for our community to get involved with the arts," said Scott from an HOS press release. "These funds will ensure that the Highlands Opera Studio is able to share the gift of experience and creativity, in person and virtually."

Valerie Kuinka, general and co-artistic director with HOS, said that since the COVID-19 pandemic, people have been apprehensive about returning to in-person gatherings, which has hindered HOS events.

She said the OTF grant is helping the opera studio to reimagine two of their major pilot projects to become more accessible and safe for all.

"This grant will enable HOS to streamline and upgrade all our activities while reconnecting to and expanding not only through the unequalled experience of live performance in indoor venues, but also online or



even outside, therefore giving people in the community improved access to programs and events offered by Highlands Opera Studio for years to come," Kuinka said in her speech at the event.

Klara Oyler, representative from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, spoke and said getting to see the impact of OTF grants locally is very heartwarming.

"[This grant] is helping you continue to engage with your audience while also helping to open the doors for people of all ages to discover a musical style that has actually cap-

tivated audiences for centuries," Oyler said.

The grant will help fund digital equipment for theatre and outside use as well as the hiring of operators to train HOS staff for its use.

"For some people, the pandemic has created a lasting apprehension to return to live events in confined spaces, and has also resulted in a serious lack of qualified professional theatre technical personnel, impacting the ability to prepare and present live staged events," Kuinka said.

COVID-19 may have changed willingness to be in close contact with others, but HOS

hopes to relieve this anxiety by implementing the new equipment.

The event opened with a screening of a 15 minute film featuring Cree First Nation using new technical equipment purchased with funds to get an idea of what can be achieved with new equipment for HOS.

The night concluded with musical numbers performed by singer Lauren Margison and Melissa Stephens playing the keyboard.

Visit [www.highlandsoperastudio.com](http://www.highlandsoperastudio.com) for more information.

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## Here comes the sun?

THE TOPIC I heard about more than anything else this past week was the weather. Now don't get me wrong. The weather is often a go-to for passersby on the street; acquaintances who you want to share a quick gab with instead of diving into the alternatives of local politics and family dynamics.

Despite its predominant place in the small-talk world, the weather ties us together. From getting your kids ready in the morning (is it a snow pants day, a layered day, a "will this toque end up in the lost and found" day?), to all plans and preparations in regards to road management, to our economy standing on wobbly footing without a dump of snow, the weather is what drives us forward.

But what happens when the weather doesn't cooperate? When we don't get that dump of snow we needed to open up the trails that would lend themselves to outdoor recreation? It feels as though this particular winter season has been more unpredictable than before. As I stare out the window to Head Lake, it's nowhere near freezing solid. As I walk down Water Street, the Gull River is peeking its eyes over the shore, threatening to spill over at any time.

James Matthews did an update from the Nordic Ski Association this week. In it, he noted that it will likely be a later start to the season, but there is a potential promise of snow on the horizon.

That being said, these conditions are a likely indication of future weather patterns.

As I spoke to organizers for Minden's ice racing, they also referenced unpredictable weather for the reasoning behind some of

their changes, including moving the events from local lakes to the Minden Fairgrounds. And that was back in the 1970s. The challenges for reliable outdoor recreation have only snowballed (no pun intended) since then.

At this point, the most predictable part of the weather seems to be that it is unpredictable.

While the scramble to reverse the effects of climate change is a slippery slope, it should surprise no one that we should be taking the steps to prepare at a local level.

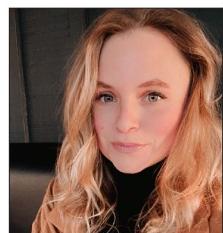
With tourism at the reins as our primary industry, local governments ought to start discussing contingency plans if "traditional winters" are

melting through our fingers. In the past, the Haliburton Highlands have heavily relied on summer and winter as the primary times to shine, with a series of targeted events and experiences catered to visitors during those windows. The other times – those times

where the weather can't make up its mind, and doesn't look great even on a good day – those are called the shoulder seasons. In the past, they've looked a whole lot like they do out the window right now.

I never want to be a downer. Truly, I count myself as lucky to call the Haliburton Highlands home, every single day. Grey day or not.

But, we need to pivot our plans before it's too late. That means investment in local infrastructure that supports indoor and outdoor recreation, a vetted dedication to climate education and environmental awareness, and some outside-the-box ideas for how to cater our tourism world to the shoulder season. Because pretty soon, it may be our only season.



**EMILY STONEHOUSE**  
Editor

## IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

### Kwarky



"I can't remember if it's always the first suspect or never the first suspect?"

## Ice holes explained

WHEN PEOPLE speak of ice fishing, they often discuss gear, tactics and where to fish ad nauseum, but very few people talk about the most important part of the activity. The hole.

I'm not sure why this is the case. For it has been my experience that, without the hole, ice fishing success is drastically reduced.

Despite this, there are few articles devoted to the art and science of creating a hole in the ice.

Sure, we all know that the worst way to do it is with your boot. In fact, if you have punched through the ice with your boot, get off the ice. Now! The ice is too thin.

Ice fishing holes, like everything else, have evolved over the centuries.

When ice fishing was first invented, ancient man used to drill holes in the ice by sending the heaviest angler out first. This worked for the most part, but was hell on large identical twins.

Thankfully, soon after that, the spud was invented.

The spud is essentially a chisel attached to a heavy metal bar. No one knows why it was named after a potato. I am guessing that the fellow who invented it really liked potatoes. But that, of course, is purely speculation.

The point is the spud worked well for years. And still does.

There are only two down sides to using the spud. First, you need to watch your toes, which is probably one of the main reasons why no one wears open-toed sandals when ice fishing. The other down side is when you ask a person to pass the spud, you run the risk of having a potato thrown violently at you.



**STEVE GALEA**  
*Beyond 35*

Our ancestors used the pointed stick for centuries.)

Ancient ice anglers found that the round hole was a fine passage for slipping fish up through the ice. On the flip side, it was also appreciated by fish that slipped out of their hands. Even so, ice anglers chose to settle on the round hole because it was harder, though not impossible, to place a boot through.

Since then the only real innovation regarding holes has been the size of them and how quickly we make them. Gas and electric-powered augers have allowed us to drill bigger holes faster.

I suspect one day soon, we will have flamethrowing ice augers, which might mean the end of ice fishing entirely.

Until then, avoid asking anyone to pass the spud.

## IN OTHER WORDS

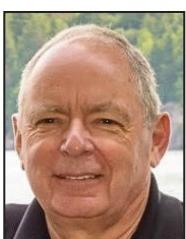
*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

# Lots of noise about little

**W**HEN YOU go to a 10-pin bowling alley you have to put up with a lot of noise.

That's why Prince Harry's book *Spare*, released this week, seems so appropriately titled. Accusations roll thunderously like bowling balls. Family confidences topple like bowling pins.

The book is much noise about things of little concern to most people, and no value in solving real problems. It's a misery memoir written to rack up attention and make a heap of money.



**JIM POLING SR.**

*From Shaman's Rock*

too deeply.

Back in 2016 he consumed magic mushrooms to "redefine" reality and help him see "the truth." But during one session he went to a washroom where he encountered a talking toilet.

He also writes that he used cocaine as a teenager, but says he did not like it and any suggestions that he was a drug addict are false.

So perhaps it wasn't drugs that have made him a bit wacky. Maybe he was just born, like many British royals, a bit dim.

The most dimwitted writing in the book is about his six missions as a British army helicopter pilot in Afghanistan. He writes that he killed 25 Taliban insurgents, saying: "These were chess pieces removed from the board."

That has stunned and upset military people. Major General Chip Chapman, a senior British military official, called Harry "naively stupid" for breaking military standards and values - stupidity that could threaten the security of the United Kingdom and Harry personally.

Much of the book is about the Royal Family's treatment of Harry and his American wife Meghan Markle. He has said his older brother William, the heir to the throne, called Meghan difficult, rude and abrasive.

He also says that an argument about Meghan resulted in a scuffle during which William knocked him to the floor.

He writes that his father, King Charles, was antagonistic towards Meghan and feared being overshadowed by someone charismatic and popular with the people. Charles said he would not support Meghan financially because the royal family was "not made of money."

Harry accuses his father, his stepmother Camilla, now the Queen Consort, and his brother and sister-in-law of feeding the press negative stories about he and Meghan.

Harry and Meghan ceased Royal Family duties three years ago and moved to the United States.

Since then Harry has spent much of his time airing grievances against the Royal Family. These have hit a crescendo in the last couple weeks in an organized leadup to the release of *Spare*.

Harry has given a basketful of interviews to handpicked media, has had a documentary on Netflix and Meghan has been doing podcasts. All of which is contradictory considering Harry's hatred of the media, notably the British tabloids.

He blames the paparazzi for his mother's death in a 1997 car crash. The paparazzi were following a car carrying her and her boyfriend Dodi Fayed through a traffic tunnel in Paris. Their chauffeur was speeding, drunk and on prescription drugs when he lost control and crashed. Diana was not wearing a seatbelt.

Harry's publicity campaign is paying off substantially, in financial terms. Sales of *Spare* are expected to be in the millions.

It hasn't helped his image, however. Polling shows 64 per cent of Brits now have a negative view of the prince. Only 26 per cent see him in a positive light.

Meanwhile, as he counts his book royalties, Harry might want to consider one of life's most important rules: whining about how others treat you never makes life any better. Suck it up and move on with building a better life for yourself and anyone you can help.



A foggy Thursday morning. /Submitted by Guenter Horst

### Letters to the editor

## *Thieves make off with ATVs*

### Hi friends, family and neighbours,

Normally at this time of the year, I like to send out inspirational blessings and prayers of love for all humankind; joy, happiness, kindness, time for hatchets to be buried, divisions to be forgotten and differences to be put aside. I like to remind everyone there is no better time than Christmas time to reflect on the past year with fond memories and count all the many blessings we have.

Mother Nature is at her worst unfurling rain, snow, ice, high winds and whatever else she can think into the mix. This, we as Canadians, take into our stride and deal with.

But this past Christmas, our joy has been dampened and not by COVID nor the weather but rather a virus I have named "Theft."

As the snow covered the earth and the world fell silent, cruel "Grinch Thieves" came onto our property on Hadlington Road and made off with two of our family ATVs. The culprits gained entry to our property through a locked gate. This happened between the night of Dec. 21 and morning of Dec. 22, 2022.

It is not only an invasion, but an emotional one as well. It is so heartbreaking as the 4-wheelers were not only enjoyed very much by my son and his wife, but by our three grandchildren. We used them for doing work around the property and the one 4-wheeler is one my son uses on his job site when working in Alberta. He was laid off from his construction job in Ontario in November and went out to Alberta to work. He just had not taken his 4-wheeler out yet.

This burglary will not only cost significant financial and sentimental loss to my son and his family, but to the local OPP department which is already stretched to its limit investigating thefts. These thefts cost all landowners in increased taxes each year.

Please keep in mind if you're from this area, my family came here to Haliburton to carve a home in this land over nine generations ago and no doubt your forefathers worked along beside them trying to make ends as well.

If anyone saw a bright Green 700 Artic Cat with Ontario plates and/or a 660 Yamaha Grizzly with Alberta plates on Hadlington Road going North or going East on Hwy 121 toward Wilberforce or West on 121 going toward Tory Hill, please contact one of the below persons.

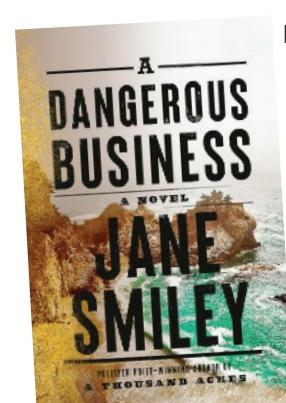
Police are looking for any information that will lead to the culprits in this matter. Anyone with information is asked to contact constable Shaun Wylie at shaun.wylie@opp.ca, Ryan at rsebris@icloud.com or Valerie at vsmith.rhapsody@hotmail.com or call me at 705-324-8174.

To our Grinch Burglars ... Even the Grinch who stole Christmas at least brought it back. You can do that as well. Just drop the two four wheelers and anything else you stole back off where you took them from.

I wish to thank Constable Shaun Wylie for braving the day's foul weather to investigate our losses.

**Valerie Smith,  
Tory Hill**

### HCPL's Book of the week



Monterey, 1851. Widowed at just 21-years-old, Eliza Ripple has been working in a brothel to make ends meet. It seems like a better life, at least at first. The madam is kind, the men are (relatively) well behaved, and Eliza has attained what few women have: financial security. But when the dead bodies of young women start appearing outside of town, Eliza begins to question the safety of the life she has built. Side by side with her friend Jean, and inspired by her favorite detective novels, Eliza pieces together an array of clues to try to catch the killer, all the while juggling clients who begin to seem more and more suspicious.

A Dangerous Business by Jane Smiley is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

# 2022 Year in Review

## January

### Province attempts to slow COVID-19 surge

A new year has brought new provincial restrictions during the fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. In-person school will move to online learning for the next two weeks, indoor dining at restaurants will be temporarily closed and all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures will be paused in an effort to preserve the province's health-care system.

### Council approves fairground use for ice racing

Ice racing season is a go. Minden Mayor Brent Devolin said he supported the reopening of the fairgrounds, as long as everyone is following public health protocols like social distancing. "I think we're in a different place and we know some things that we didn't a year ago," Devolin said.

### Board prepares for return to in-school learning

TLDSSB director Wes Hahn's first update for the year characterized an eventful return to school for the new year, alluding to the delayed return to classes and the pivot between online learning and the return to in-person classes as of Jan. 17. "Obviously the return to school has been eventful and, again, filled with change and increased anxiety for staff and families," he said.

### Hike Haliburton - Winter Edition cancelled

Another event is taking a hike, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hike Haliburton - Winter Edition festival, scheduled for Feb. 5 and 6, has been cancelled. The news was made official at the Wednesday, Jan. 12 county council meeting, held virtually, when councillors voted to accept a recommendation to cancel the county run event.

### HHHS staffing stable, but still a 'significant challenge'

While staffing levels at Haliburton Highlands Health Services have remained stable enough that emergency departments have avoided closure, HHHS CEO and president Carolyn Plummer said staffing remains a "significant challenge." "As the spread of the virus increases in our commu-



A car hits a snow bank as it makes its way around a loop during a previous ice racing event at the Minden Fairgrounds. /FILE photo

nity, more and more of our staff are having to isolate, which is further increasing the pressure on our staffing issues," Plummer told the *Times*.

### Paul Wilson celebrates winning solution

At the end of what would've been the 2020-21 season, the OJHL's Whitby Fury weren't drawing very well. The team was among the bottom in attendance and needed a change, enter owner Paul Wilson and his team who helped come up with a winning solution. Being from Haliburton, Wilson and his team filed the paperwork to move the team to Minden Hills and the new S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, and rebranding as the Haliburton County Huskies

1:30 p.m., Haliburton Highlands OPP responded to a report of a robbery at a residence on Parkside Street in Minden. The suspects were located a short time later.

### Health unit shifting the strategy for handling COVID-19

In a lengthy report to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit board, medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking spoke about how the Omicron variant has led to changes on how the health unit will measure the threat of the virus and actions that are being made to help schools and long-term homes operate with a sense of normalcy.

### Working group to form around green burial initiative

Algonquin Highlands Council agreed to form an ad hoc committee to collaborate with the Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society to convert a section of the cemetery at St. Stephen's Church into a green burial site.

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## County to hire consultant for economic development strategy

Haliburton County plans to hire a consultant to work on an economic development strategy; a project that would involve interviewing community members and gathering data to ensure business in the region will grow. A report to county council by new economic development and tourism director Scott Ovell seemed to excite councillors at the Jan. 12 meeting, held virtually. Council approved the report, which asked that a request for proposal be sent out to interested consulting firms. The cost for the contract could range between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

## It's showtime for Minden's *Still Standing* episode

While the pandemic paused the show during initial public health measures and restrictions, in June 2020, Minden council heard a presentation from story producer Shayla Howell and executive producer Anne Francis about how the filming could happen with protocols in place. Minden was of interest because of news stories about repeated flooding and the community's response to it after states of emergency due to severe flooding on the Gull River in 2013, 2017 and 2019. The show aired on the CBC on Feb. 2.

# February

## TLDSB director speaks to keeping parents informed

Trillium Lakelands District School Board director Wes Hahn observed a mood of fatigue tinged with hope during his director's update at the board's regular meeting. "As we enter the third calendar year of this pandemic, people are tired. Families are tired, staff are tired," he said, expressing his gratitude for teachers, staff, and families during the transition back to in-person learning. "But you know, out in a school today and seeing the energy ... there's a lot of positive feelings about where we're going." He also outlined how the board was keeping parents in the loop, now that COVID testing and reporting falls on the board's shoulders.

## New county tourism manager promotes four-season destination

Haliburton County's no longer just a summer cottage community; it's a four-season destination now and the timing has never been better to market it as such. That's the message that new county tourism manager Tracie Bertrand wants to get out. "We want to take those traditional visitors that are coming in that (summer) tourism season and create that sense of loyalty, so they visit in the winter and the fall and the spring," she said.

**Jonny Harris walks down Minden's Bobcaygeon Road during filming of an episode of *Still Standing* that features Minden and was broadcast on CBC on Feb. 2, 2022.**

/Photo by Chris Armstrong Photography

## Modernization funding announced for Minden Hills, county

Two projects - the Haliburton County Paramedic Service master plan and a human resources information system modernization for the township of Modern Hills - will benefit from funding from the provincial government. Last week, Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock made the announcement about the funding, totalling \$101,760 for the County of Haliburton's project, and \$81,357 for the Minden Hills project.

## Rally against vaccine mandate drives through Haliburton County

Scott Danilko said a local rally he organized for people to voice their opposition against federal and provincial vaccine mandates and support the "Freedom Convoy" currently happening in Ottawa was larger than he had anticipated. "It was a heck of a lot bigger than what I ever dreamed," he told the *Times*. Haliburton Highlands OPP said there were about 60 vehicles in the procession of cars, trucks and SUVs, many of them decorated with Canadian flags, that left Kawartha Dairy's parking lot in Minden on Feb. 5, driving through Minden's downtown, Haliburton village, West Guilford, Carnarvon and back to Minden.

## Maple Lake United Church to close

The congregation of Maple Lake United Church will disband, 120 years after the first congregation met in the new building. At the church's annual meeting, members of the church on the corner of Highway 118 and Stanhope

Airport Road opted to permanently close the building and disband the congregation.

## County council rejects idea of vaccine policy

Haliburton County won't have a firm vaccine policy for its staff, but councillors say the county will continue to advocate most public health guidelines, such as masking and distancing. Councillors tensely debated the merits of a policy for more than half an hour, but ultimately decided that a mandate directing staff to be vaccinated presented too many legal quagmires and seemed unnecessary, given the shifting nature of the pandemic.

## Province ending vaccine passport mandates

Ontario is scrapping its proof-of-vaccination system as of March 1 and has moved up the second stage of the province's reopening plan by four days on Feb. 17. Premier Doug Ford, who made the announcement during a press conference at Queen's Park on Monday, said capacity limits will be lifted in all settings where a proof of vaccination is required, including restaurants and cinemas.

## Long-time Dorset Lion, Esther Fortney, turns 100

A remarkable woman who helped the Dorset Lions Club roar for many years is now 100 years young. Esther Fortney turned 100 years old on Feb. 14. She celebrated the milestone birthday with a few friends at her retirement home.



**Thank you to all HHHS health care workers for your tireless efforts and unparalleled care for the community.**

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## Keith Stata's Highlands Cinemas the focus of new documentary

Keith Stata, the pied piper of movies and creator of the landmark Highlands Cinemas in Kinmount stars in a new documentary, *The Movie Man*. After celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2019, then shuttered due to COVID over the past two years, his beloved 18,500 square foot five-plex destination cinema and its 4,000 square foot museum is under threat. Now, with *The Movie Man* trailer just released and available for public viewing, we are reminded why its survival is important not only for movie goers, but also for the economies of Kinmount and its neighbouring communities.

## Minden's Organic Times becomes Rising Thymes

For Deborah Lyons and Yuki Renel, the time was right for a change. Minden's downtown speciality food store, previously run by Lyons as Organic Times, has relaunched under the ownership of Renel as Rising Thymes. It's an emotional transition for Lyons, given her long history as a proud Minden businesswoman, but one she feels good about.

# March

## Minden Hills Cultural Centre loses curator

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is suddenly without a curator and March Break programs will not happen this year. It's worrying news for an important municipally-run operation and tourist attraction, especially given that it's coming out of fairly quiet COVID years and because it's faced turnover in the past. Laurie Carmount, the curator who was responsible for overseeing programs at the centre, which includes the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place, is no longer employed there, a town official confirmed in an email to the Minden Times on Monday.

## Dorset tower to reopen

After two years of closure, Dorset tower will be open to visitors once again. Additionally, recreational programming in Algonquin Highlands that has been altered or cancelled throughout the pandemic will be running this year.

## Supporting Ukraine from Haliburton County

A few years back, Minden resident Maryssa Danilko visited Ukraine, the home country of her grandparents. Her memories of that visit are vivid, painting an image of cities where people "hustle and bustle," and a countryside that is very poor but where the hospitality is warm and welcoming, and visitors are greeted with "very open arms." Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Danilko said she feels as though she's in shock. "I just feel like at a loss, almost," she said days after Russian president Vladimir Putin authorized airstrikes across Ukraine, and Russian convoys began advancing into the country. "I've been kind of battling tears for the last couple days."

## Red Hawks alumni curlers rock the OCAAs

Jessica Byers, Liam Little, and Jacob Dobson, three alumni from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, rocked the podium at the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) Curling Championships, coming home with two golds and a silver medal.

## MH council says no to Bob Lake boat launch

In what Mayor Brent Devolin said was the second recorded vote he has asked for in seven years, Minden Hills council voted against moving forward with a public boat launch on Bob Lake, with the exception of Councillor Pam Sayne.

## Ron Gambell remembered for his charisma, leadership

Ron Gambell, highly charismatic entrepreneur and community leader, passed away on Sunday, March 6 at his home in Minden Hills. Born with the gift of gab and an aptitude for inspiring others, he excelled as Master Grand Salesman with General Motors and owner of Gambell Motors and Gambell Antiques and Tea Room, both in Minden. He served as warden of Lutterworth township, councillor for Minden Hills, and president of the Rotary Club of Minden. Gambell also became the host of Suwan's Thai Cuisine, the popular restaurant of his business and life partner of 22 years, Suwan Khamduang.

## AH approves 2022 budget

Councillors passed the township's 2022 budget last week. The budget includes \$14.6 million in total expenditures, \$5.9 million which will come from property taxation. This represents a levy increase of 4.16 per cent over last year, for a 2.33 per cent increase in the municipal tax rate. This equates to an estimated overall increase of \$14.94 for every \$100,000 of assessment for residential properties.

## Retired HHSS teacher Tom Regina named Green party's candidate

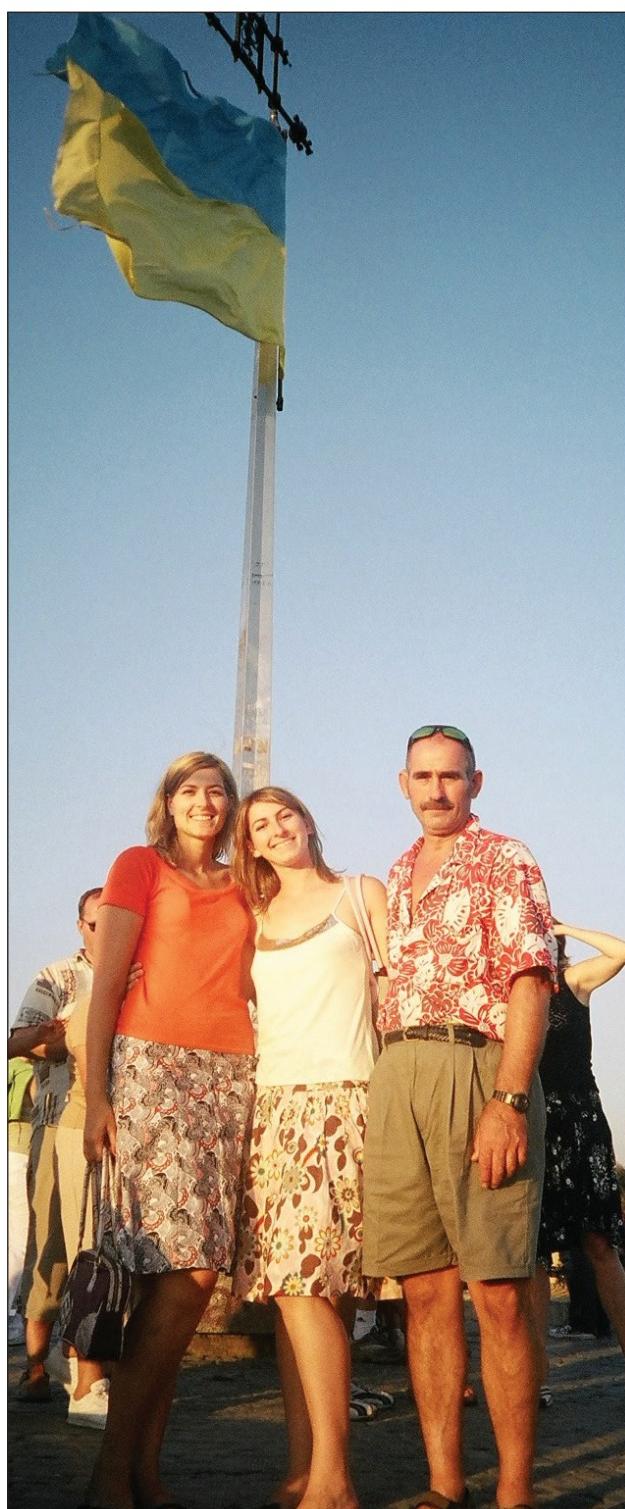
Haliburton resident Tom Regina has been nominated as the Green party's candidate for the Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock riding in the upcoming provincial election. A resident of Haliburton for more than 30 years, Regina taught music and was the Head of Arts at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

## Arena snack bar to cost nearly \$300,000

The cost to add a snack bar at Minden's arena has, in the words of community services director Craig Belfry, "ballooned" to \$293,000 excluding HST and contingency. Previously, council had approved additional expenses for the township's arena project, including construction costs for a snack bar which were not captured under the arena's original budget. The budget for its design was \$13,535, plus HST, the remainder of that to be spent on electrical and mechanical work, millwork, doorways and equipment.

## Health unit reports first influenza case in two years

The first lab-confirmed case of influenza in the region in the past two years was reported last week, after no flu activity was reported in the HKPRD region during the 2020-2021 influenza season.



Maryssa Danilko, centre, with her sister Sonia Snyder and her dad Nichola Kulyk in front of a Ukrainian flag in Kiev. /Photo submitted by Maryssa Danilko

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## OPP sergeant nominated for Hero Award

Haliburton Highlands OPP sergeant Paul McDonald was recently nominated for the Police Association's Hero Award, through letters of nomination by people directly affected by his willingness to listen, be present and contribute to the community.

# April

## Gradual freshet, but residents reminded to be prepared

With warmer weather comes the spring thaw, or freshet, as snow and ice accumulated over the winter season melts into rivers, lakes and streams. 2022's freshet had been gradual with multiple freeze and thaw events as a result of substantial temperature fluctuations and nominal precipitation events.

## Author Waubgeshig Rice visits HHSS

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School staff and students gained perspective with the opportunity to speak with Indigenous author and journalist Waubgeshig Rice on Monday, April 4. Christine Carr, a teacher at HHSS, organized the virtual presentation with the help of TLDSB Indigenous Education consultant Holly Groome. Schools across the board tuned in to listen to Rice tell his story and talk about his literary career.

## Official opening event planned for Minden arena

"With the lifting of many of the restrictions for the facility, the whole community is now finally invited by the township of Minden Hills to the official opening of the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre," said Craig Belfry, director of community services. "Beginning at 11 a.m., this exciting day will include a piped-in opening ceremony, ribbon cutting, and recognition of the many volunteers that contributed to the project."

## Devolin not seeking third term as MH mayor

Back in October, Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin announced he wasn't planning to seek a third term. "I've ticked all the big boxes, it's time to move on, and I've made plans for the next 10 years, probably my last 10 years of working and leaning into the community," he said. Devolin said the projects he wanted to see accomplished, including emergency planning for Minden Hills and a new fire hall, had been done. The only thing left, he said, was that he would have liked to be part of a discussion about amalgamation, which he has always publicly supported.



Haliburton County Huskies defenseman Isaac Sooklal rushes the puck to stay ahead of Cobourg Cougars A.J. Cook during second round of OJHL playoffs on April 17, 2022 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. /FILE

## Moffatt announces she won't seek re-election

Mayor Carol Moffatt announced she doesn't intend to seek re-election this year after 16 years of public service. "While I'm passionately drawn to participating in what's ahead for the Haliburton Highlands, it's no secret to many that I've been at a personal crossroads for some time now," said Moffatt in an announcement made April 23.

## Minden Agricultural Society plans the return of the fair

As summer nears, the Minden Fairgrounds will once again be filled with music, animals and people celebrating and promoting agriculture. A Haliburton County Fair Event – a sort of micro-fair – will be held on June 11, the second Saturday of June. A Minden horse pull and live country music show, sponsored by the Minden Agricultural Society have been announced, with more activities and events planned by the day.

## Huskies season ends in heartbreak

The inaugural season for the Haliburton County Huskies ended in heartbreak Wednesday night, April 20 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The 4-3 overtime loss to the visiting Cobourg Cougars in game three of the East division finals, means that unfortunately the playoff run has come to an end. As a result of the loss, the Cougars won the best-of-three playoff series, 2-1.

## Times, Echo, celebrate provincial awards

The *Minden Times* and *Haliburton County Echo* took home several awards at the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's Better Newspapers Contest on April 29. A special ceremony was held virtually during the OCNA spring convention last week revealing first, second and third place finishes.



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## Music by the Gull moves to Music Fridays at the Fairgrounds

After 30 years, Music by the Gull is moving to a new home. The popular summertime event, in which bands set up on Water Street in downtown Minden to play for crowds sitting along the sidewalks in lawn chairs brought from home, is heading up the road to the fairgrounds.

## Minden boardwalk closes indefinitely for repairs

A temporary closure of the Minden boardwalk was announced by the township of Minden Hills last Friday. The wooden boardwalk, noted on the township's website to be approximately 0.4 kilometres in length from its entrance at the Cultural Centre on Bobcaygeon Road through natural grass marsh to Minden's ball diamonds or Invergordon Avenue, is closed for safety evaluation and repair.

## Nine-year-old Minden resident nominated for Junior Citizen Award

Michael Dillane was all smiles when arriving at the Minden Times office on May 6. The nine-year-old Grade 3 student was there to receive a certificate of recognition after being nominated for a 2021 Ontario Junior Citizen Award this year. The award recognizes outstanding young people, age six to 17, who are performing worthwhile community service, are contributing to their communities while living with limitations, have performed acts of heroism, excellence in personal achievements, or are 'good kids' who are making life better for others and doing more than expected of someone their age.

## Dominion Hotel wins best bicycle-friendly business award

The team at the Dominion Hotel and Pub was awarded last week for a hospitality toward cycle tourists, being named the 2022 Best Bicycle-Friendly Business in Ontario's Highlands from Ontario by Bike. The award recognizes businesses that go above and beyond with "efforts in and excelling at providing services and a welcome to cyclists visiting their locations as well as supporting cycling within their community."



The 2022 Farmers' Market broke their previous attendance record of 30,000 by drawing 39,741 people this year in total. /EMILY STONEHOUSE File

## Return of the Haliburton County Farmers' Market

Haliburton County Farmers' Markets are back to offer a cultural experience and the opportunity to support your neighbours. The Haliburton County Farmers' Market will be open in Haliburton on Tuesdays, Minden on Saturdays, and Stanhope on Sundays starting this spring. The farmers' markets will feature 41 vendors in total, all from Haliburton County or close neighbouring municipalities coming together to bring "food, art, culture, and community to the entire county," said market manager Lauren Phillips.

## Dorset Rec Centre remains closed through 2022

The town's community centre has been closed as a result of an ongoing mould issue discovered in March last year – at

first, the mould was discovered during a small renovation project in the downstairs bathroom, and a further investigation showed greater spread of the mould and moisture. "The township undertook a professional assessment to provide recommendations and cost estimates to repair the problem areas," reads the update. "As well as addressing insulation and waterproofing, pandemic-related provincial direction on ventilation requires improvements, with overall estimated costs of some \$900,000."

## Tourism and business summit rekindles connection

The first-annual HaliTAC Tourism and Business Summit forges synergy and a sense of connection among local stakeholders. The summit was created by the Haliburton Tourism Action Committee (HaliTAC) and made possible by the County of Haliburton Economic Development and Tourism, Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization, and Boshkung Brewing Company. Twenty-four local businesses and organizations set up booths at the summit where more than 70 people attended, which exceeded the expectations of organizers, on Tuesday, May 17.

## Gull Lake cottagers celebrate 100 years of history

A lot has changed in a century, but the Gull Lake Cottagers' Association's devotion to keeping their lake safe and beautiful remains as strong as ever. The Gull Lake Cottagers' Association (GLCA) celebrated their 100 year anniversary at their Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 22 at Kilcoo Camp in Minden, situated on Gull Lake.

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## County gives Point in Time transportation pilot project a lift

The County of Haliburton will fund \$20,000 of a rural transportation pilot project operated by Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents. Marg Cox, Point in Time executive director, approached county council on May 25 to request the funding assistance for a transportation program operated by the agency that plans to offer greater access to integrated services including mental health and substance use, primary care, immediate support, peer support and employment support at the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub.

## Prom Returns

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students wore their best at the prom held on Saturday, May 28 at Sir Sam's in Eagle Lake. There were close to 130 people who attended the first prom in two years, which was previously put on hold because of health measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

## Minden Rotary celebrates 75 years of service

The service club is celebrating 75 years of these contributions on June 4, almost exactly to the day in 1947 when the club's charter night was held on June 18 at Wigamog Inn.

# June

## Sixth term for Scott

The 2022 Ontario general election on Thursday, June 2 saw the lowest voter turnout in the province's history with only 43 per cent of eligible voters appearing at the polls. The turnout was 15 per cent less than the 2018 general election, but both saw Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford win a majority government. The Ontario PC party claimed 83 out of 124 seats in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, with Member of Provincial Parliament for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock Laurie Scott securing one of them.

## AH moves to four-day work week

After the upcoming Canada Day long weekend, Algonquin Highlands township staff will begin trialing a compressed work week, making long weekends a weekly option. Algonquin Highlands council supported the eight-month trial, which is planned to begin July 4 until Feb. 28, 2023, at their June 16 council meeting, many councillors and the CAO expressing their excitement for the policy.

## A 'dream' come true for Minden teen

Tathan McCutcheon's biggest dream was to build a basketball court, and it was made possible this spring with a little help from his friends. The Sunshine Foundation of Canada recently granted Tathan a "dream" in the winter of 2022. The Sunshine Foundation outlined their mission on their website as, "A charity that changes the lives of kids living with severe physical disabilities for the opportunity to lead a brighter, more hopeful future."



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students wore their best at the prom held on May 28, 2022 at Sir Sam's in Eagle Lake. There were close to 130 people who attended the first prom in two years, which was put on hold because of health measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. /FILE

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**21**



## The Highlands are alive with The Sound of Music

Music, dance, and theatre performance are about to become a few of the county's favourite things. The Highlands Summer Festival returns to the stage in July and August, starting with the opening of *The Sound of Music* on July 4.

# July

## Canada Day celebrations return

The much-appreciated, volunteer-run annual kids fishing derby had more than 330 kids register for the Canada Day morning event and more than 100 sponsors that donated prizes, money for prizes, fishing rods to use that day, and 80 containers of worms.

## Dimensions AH offers a different type of trip

Plans for a new health retreat, which has sparked much curiosity, careful planning and public relations work, due to its offer of "psychedelic" therapies, is coming to fruition. Canadian company, Dimensions, has revealed designs for its first project, Dimensions Algonquin Highlands, which is now under construction on a 45-acre Maple Lake property previously known as the Mishpacha Resort.

## HCDC Incubator open for businesses

The Haliburton County Development Corporation's (HCDC) renewed Incubator space is giving the necessary tools and support to fledgling local businesses so they can soar to success.

## Rogers outage stirs up concerns and questions

A national connectivity outage is making local organiza-



Mikka Jones, of Ottawa, visited 2022 Canada Day celebrations in Minden with his grandma, Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts, where he got both a free tattoo and a high five from Minden Hills firefighter Danielle Bryer. /FILE

tions and businesses think about the what-ifs around a repeat situation. With service provider Rogers experiencing an outage on July 8 across the country, there were millions of Canadian residents and businesses left unable to complete purchases with debit cards and E-transfers, access the internet, complete phone calls and send texts.

an example of government overreach, at the expense of their livelihoods and the economy.

# August

## Excitement grows for Norland Farmers' Market's inaugural year

It was the Norland Farmers' Market's (NFM) inaugural year, welcoming visitors come rain or shine, every Friday until Oct. 7, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Ward Memorial Park on Highway 35 in Norland.

## Resort owners angry over Health Unit hot tub order

The Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit has been clamping down on the use of outdoor hot tubs, forcing some businesses to drain their tubs and lose the income that comes with offering the luxurious service. Two resort owners who spoke to the *Haliburton Echo/ Minden Times* are furious with the health unit for enforcing Ontario Health Regulation 565, which they argue is being interpreted incorrectly and isn't helpful in what they hoped would be a bump up year for tourism after two COVID summers. They say it's

## Rotary hosts RotaryFest

The Rotary Club of Minden celebrated 75 years of community involvement at RotaryFest. This was the first year for the event and it featured live music, a scavenger hunt, a flea market, a yard sale, bingo, and community partner booths.

## The Studio Tour celebrates 35 years in Highlands

The Studio Tour, Haliburton Highlands will be in full swing celebrating its 35th year over the first two weekends of October with must-see art made by 44 local artists, including ten guest artists, displayed and presented at 26 studios at the same number of locations.

# September

## Queen Elizabeth II reign ends after 70 years

"Queen Elizabeth's was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today," said King Charles III in his first address as Monarch on Friday, Sept. 9.

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## Huskies open second season

Haliburton County Huskies kicked off their second season on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden against the Cobourg Cougars.

## HKPR district experienced fewer new COVID infections

There's no immediate end in sight to the coronavirus pandemic. But the number of positive tests are on the decline in the area covered by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

## Celebrating a successful HHC

Haliburton Highlands Challenge at Abbey Retreat Centre wrapped up on Sept. 18. The event celebrated raising almost \$60,000 during the Haliburton Highlands Challenge for ARC's cancer retreats and programming for those on their wait list.

## Bookapalooza turns page on first chapter

With 125 people who came to the first-ever free admission event on Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Minden Community Centre, the organizing committee was happy about the turnout for what they described as a "tradeshow event" that brought together readers, writers and editors from within Haliburton County and surrounding areas.

## Rotaract takes over the Highland Yard

Rotaract Haliburton Highlands is off and running and will become the lead of a long-time fundraiser in the community, the Highland Yard. Rotaract Haliburton Highlands hosted their first ever public open house at the Abbey Gardens' marquee tent on Wednesday, Sept. 21 to announce the new partnership.

# October

## Community concerns addressed at all-candidates meeting

Minden Rotary hosted an all candidates meeting on Monday, Oct. 3 at the Minden Community Centre to allow the public to ask the candidates pressing questions, which included ensuring the variety of needs to draw people here to make a life and a living are met such as housing, employment, connectivity, and also fair wages for town staff positions. More than 200 residents were in attendance to hear the platforms of each candidate.

## Stedmans V&S closes its doors after nearly 30 years

Owners John and Robyn Thomas of Stedmans V&S Department Store closed their doors in the heart of downtown Minden for the last time. The couple has a 29-year history of



The Haunted Forest Walks; which provide scares and laughter and help to benefit the community; Oct. 28, 29 and 30, 2022. /FILE

owning and managing the store with the help of their three children, and officially closed on Tuesday, Sept. 27.

## Finding frights brings joy and benefits community

There's going to be plenty of scares and smiles for those who are ready to brave the Haunted Forest Walk this year. It's a return for the event after its inaugural year, which not only brought shrieks of delight, but also managed to collect nonperishables and raise close to \$1,100 for the Minden Food Bank.

## AH votes in Danielsen

Algonquin Hills voters elevated their deputy mayor to the town council's big chair. Liz Danielsen, the township's deputy mayor through the last four years, was chosen to be the next mayor with 1,204 voters in the Oct. 24 municipal election.

# November

## Schools will close if education workers walk off the job

The Trillium Lakelands District Board will close its schools if education workers walk off the job on Friday.

## Austin Boylan excels at Canadian Futures Showcase

At just sixteen years old and one of the younger players se-

lected, Austin Boylan, who grew up in Minden, was recently invited to be part of the 2022 Canadian Futures Showcase among 140 other elite baseball players selected from across Canada. Hosted by the Toronto Blue Jays this past September in Ottawa, the Showcase is a platform where major league and division 1 college scouts from the US can scope out potential prospects.

## 45 years of Minden's Horticultural Society

ast presidents of the Minden & District Horticultural Society were recognized at the 45th anniversary annual general meeting and party on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at the Minden Community Centre. The event featured past photos, speeches by long-time members, and refreshments.

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Santa Claus is coming to town, as he visited local shops and businesses in downtown Minden before the 2022 holidays. /FILE

## OPP detachment rumoured to consolidate

County council has asked the four lower tier municipalities to oppose a possible consolidation of OPP detachments. County council discussed rumours during a special meeting on Nov. 9 that OPP detachments in Haliburton Highlands and City of Kawartha Lakes would merge. The rumour also holds that the Haliburton detachment commander will be replaced with a mere manager.

## Minden Council faces a fresh start

There's a new mayor in town for Minden Hills, and he is

ready to hit the ground running. Mayor Bob Carter, who ran unopposed in the municipal election last month, was officially sworn into the role of mayor at the inaugural meeting of council on November 15.

## Highlander of the Year awarded to advocate for youth

Robin Carmount has officially been named the Highlander of the Year at the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala, held this past Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Bonnie View Inn.

# December

## Heat Bank hits new high

Heat Bank Haliburton County hits \$33,000 at their annual fundraiser, hosted at Rhubarb Restaurant. The event also offered the option for participants to engage with an online auction leading up to the event. The amounts raised will cover the year of heat-related needs in the community.

## Fast Lane Bowling: 'no choice but to fold'

The sound of bowling balls and the laughter may no longer be heard at 12281 Highway 35 in Minden. Fast Lane Bowling has been open since March 2022, after owners Ron Crump and Debbie Gerzymisch started renting the space in January of 2022. The dream was short lived though, as they were notified on Dec. 2 via letter that their rent at the facility would increase nearly 140 per cent.

## County Tourism interested in your voice

The Haliburton County Tourism Department wants to hear your voice. Led by manager of tourism, Tracie Bertrand, they have launched their first annual Resident Sentiment Survey (RSS). "We need to know whether we are moving in the direction that the community wants," said Bertrand. "This is an opportunity to share opinions about what you like, what you don't like, and what you need."

## Still no lower-tier consensus on shoreline bylaw

Three of four lower tier municipalities have delegated authority to the county to enforce the proposed Shoreline Preservation Bylaw. Haliburton County council discussed during its regular meeting Dec. 14 whether to proceed with the bylaw without Dysart's participation or to continue with changes until the lone holdout municipality buys into it.

**Karen Nimigon**  
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# Fire and Ice ready to warm up the season

by VIVIAN COLLINGS  
Times Staff

Supporting the Minden community this winter can be as enjoyable as sipping on tasteful cocktails and eating fine foods.

Head over to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Sunday, Feb. 19 to support their community programming by attending Fire and Ice, a yearly event put on by the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation (MHCCF).

The fundraiser event will feature a series of cocktails and mocktails from EAT Cheeserie and Cocktails and locally-made beer from Boshkung Brewing.

"It's great to be able to get together for this community fundraiser once again. It is always a memorable night in Minden, and a great opportunity to experience the culinary culture of our region," said Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation board member Emily Stonehouse.

In the past, Fire and Ice had primarily been a Scotch-tasting event, so the MHCCF is excited to bring more drinks to the mix.

There will also be fine foods from Minden-based restaurants for attendees to enjoy and sample throughout the night.

Fire and Ice will take place at the



Fire and Ice will be returning to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre this February. The MHCC Foundation has branched out this year to offer a series of mixed drinks, cocktails, and mocktails. Photo from the last Fire and Ice, hosted in 2020. /FILE PHOTO

Minden Hills Cultural Centre from 7 to 10 p.m. on Feb. 19 and is a 19+ event.

Tickets are available at local businesses

in Minden for \$40 which includes one non-alcoholic drink and food. Additional drink tickets will be available at the event.

For a full list of where to find Fire and Ice tickets, visit [www.mhccf.ca](http://www.mhccf.ca).

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Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 20

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



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**Saturday, Jan. 28 @ 4:00 p.m.  
vs Wellington Dukes**

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The main cabin at the Halls Island Artist Residency. There are also a handful of smaller sleeping cabins onsite. The island is accessed via boat, and most artists choose to stay between 10 to 12 days. Applications for the residency are now open on [www.hallsisland.ca](http://www.hallsisland.ca) / PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Halls Lake adding energy to the art world

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

Nestled into the core of the Haliburton Highlands, there is a heartbeat on Halls Lake. The Halls Island Artist Residency is a destination for artists of all backgrounds to explore, learn, and create. Currently, the applications for the residency are open for artists from around the world.

"To be surrounded by such beauty and having the room to breathe in the fresh air provided a healthy place to nurture a kind of song I'd never written. I am grateful for that," reflected musician Lisa Ann Wright, a former participant in the residency program.

The concept for the program emerged in 2018, when the owners of the island expressed interest in utilizing the space to give back to the community in some capacity. Since then, it has hosted dozens of visual artists, musicians, actors, poets, and writers. "Truly, anything goes," said member of the management committee for the residency, Don Gage, "as long as the artists are looking to progress their art form in some way."

The island is over an acre large, and requires boat transportation to and from the mainland. It runs on solar power, and has limited access to phone signals. It houses a series of small sleeping cabins, a larger main cabin, an outhouse, and a sauna. The average stay on the island is 10 to 12 days. "This really is different," said Ruth E. Walker, who works alongside Gage on the management committee, "artists are applying the situation of being in a remote location to dive more deeply into their art forms, and to make new discoveries."

Gage noted that there are generally eight to ten artists who utilize the island during time slots between June to September. While many like to participate in the residency alone, others bring along their artistic col-

leagues if they can justify their contributions to their art form. "Last year, we experimented successfully with combining two artists who did not know each other, yet stayed on the island at the same time. It went very well," he said. "We are open to interesting ideas, different art forms, and new ways of looking at things," echoed Walker.

The Halls Island Artist Residency is managed by a team of dedicated local artists and community members, and the board is based within the Haliburton County Co-op, which is a registered not-for-profit organization.

If accepted to the residency program, the cost to artist is entirely free. Participants would have to bring their own food and all materials and equipment they would require for their art forms, but the stay is provided by the The Halls Island Artist Residency team.

The only requirement is that the artists must give back to the community in some way. "We would like some sort of engagement with the community in the Haliburton Highlands," said Walker, "from a work of art to an experiential event." Walker noted that past artists have recorded albums and music videos on the island, or provided the community with workshops and lessons on their art forms after the residency wraps up.

While the application process is open for individuals from around the world, Gage and Walker noted that even locals to the Haliburton Highlands would benefit from the experience. "We have had local artists stay here before," said Walker, "and while they are comfortable with the Highlands, we believe there is an energy to this island that's really quite special."

The residency application is open until Jan. 31, yet Gage and Walker encouraged applicants to reach out if they are interested, as there is a possibility for further discussion. For all information and to apply for the residency, visit [www.hallsisland.ca](http://www.hallsisland.ca)

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2021012:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of South Lake, lying in front 1112 Hamilton Road located within Lot 6, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Snowdon.



2. **File No. PLSRA2022062:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of 1197 Canuck Trail located within Lot 10, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth.



3. **File No. PLSRA2022001:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of 1233 Celestial Drive located within Lot 27, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden.



4. **File No. PLSRA2022002:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of 1233 Celestial Drive located within Lot 27, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden.



5. **File No. PLSRA2022025:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1033 Rays Lane located within Lot 26, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden.



The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting [www.mindenhill.ca/newsroom](http://www.mindenhill.ca/newsroom).

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)  
Township Planning Consultant  
705-742-2297x278  
[adougherty@mindenhill.ca](mailto:adougherty@mindenhill.ca)

# Native plant sale prepares seeds for spring

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

During these long, grey days of winter, it's welcoming to think about getting your hands dirty in the garden in just a few short months. The Friends of Ecological and Environment Learning (FEEL) are once again rolling up their sleeves to prepare for their annual plant sale. The sale focuses on native plants to the region, and offers participants the opportunity to become an ecologically conscious gardener.

"FEEL's Native Plant Sale is a longstanding fundraiser; it has and will continue to be one of the main ways our charity raises funds for our primary educational project, the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival," said FEEL chair, Stephanie Field. "The water and climate change-themed educational programming children access through our festival is free; it is crucial it remains inclusive in this way, your support in our sale helps to ensure this."

The Native Plant sale administrator & coordinator, Cara Steele, noted that native plants can be used to beautify your property, start a garden, shade a patio, start a trellis, create wildlife habitat, naturalize a shoreline, reforest an open area, control erosion and support pollinators. She also noted that through the plant sale, they have offered new services this year to include property consultation and planting services. Steele said that this service would provide the opportunity to have FEEL ecologists plant trees, shrubs, and



FEEL's annual plant sale will once again be taking place this year, with a focus on native plants to the region. Pick-up for plants will be in May. / PHOTO SUBMITTED

wildflowers right on your property, and would assist you in determining the best locations to plant, so you can make the most of your native plants.

Field and Steele said that they primarily sell bare-root plant species, with the exception of a few potted perennial flowers. They reiterated that native plants are the way to go in the region. On top of being better adapted to the climate and soils found here, they are also instrumental in supporting ecological relationships, and offering extensive root systems to control erosion alongside shorelines and steep banks.

This year, pick-up for plants will be held at Abbey Gardens in May. "I am very enthusiastic and grateful for our partnership with Abbey Gardens," said Field. "Our mis-

sions are complimentary, and I am very optimistic about this added exposure to our fundraiser sale."

Field noted that while the plant sale has identified itself as a successful fundraiser in the past, she believes that it can continue to grow. "We have a very dedicated customer base of local landowners that rely on our annual sale to continually increase their property's biodiversity," she said, "We are certainly motivated to continue to support them but would love to see more interest from our lake associations." She noted that native plants would assist in supporting lake health and biodiversity.

The plant sale is opening soon for online shopping at [www.ecoenvirolearn.org](http://www.ecoenvirolearn.org), and will remain open until Apr. 1.



## County of Haliburton Notice

### Tariff of Fees

The Council of the County of Haliburton wish to provide public notice that they will be reviewing and considering amendments to the Tariff of Fees By-law at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

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4	7	6	2	8	5	1	9	3
8	1	5	3	4	9	2	6	7
9	3	2	6	7	1	8	4	5

## \$15K in fines for man hunting near Gooderham

by JAMES MATTHEWS  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A Roseneath man's careless firearm use and other offences netted him a hefty fine and a lengthy hunting suspension.

In provincial court in Lindsay in October, Gordon Madill was found guilty of carelessly discharging a firearm while hunting, in addition to numerous wild turkey hunting offences.

Justice of the Peace Herbert Radtke levied \$15,000 in fines and imposed a 10-year hunting licence suspension as penalty.

Madill must also complete the Ontario hunter education course and the Canadian firearms safety course before obtaining another hunting licence.

The court heard that on May 16, 2022, Madill was turkey

hunting on a property near the town of Gooderham. He discharged his shotgun at a wild turkey and pellets hit a nearby resident standing beside her house.

The resident was not injured.

Further investigation by conservation officers out of the Bancroft District's Minden Field Office revealed numerous other offences, including hunting turkeys without a licence and hunting within 400 metres of bait on multiple dates.

A Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry canine unit was used during the investigation to retrieve key evidence that resulted in 12 charges against Madill.

To report a natural resource problem or provide information about an unsolved case, members of the public can call the ministry TIPS line toll free at 1-877-847-7667. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS.



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Minden Times

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The Township of Algonquin Highlands invites expressions of interest from members of the public, outlining your experience, who are interested in serving on the newly created Recreation Committee to participate in planning events throughout the Township of Algonquin Highlands.

Candidates who have a specific interest in any of the above committees are encouraged to apply.

To view the Terms of Reference for the Committee please visit the website at <https://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/government/committees.php> or contact Sandra Rogers, Recreation Coordinator at [srogers@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:srogers@algonquinhighlands.ca) or 705-766-9033.

Expressions of Interest will be accepted by the undersigned until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2023.

**Dawn Newhook**  
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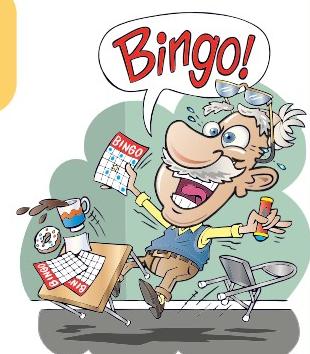
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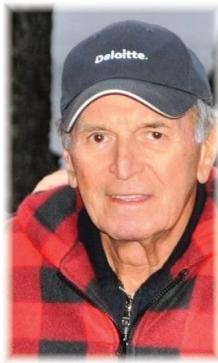


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## 650 OBITUARIES



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Norman Michael MacKinnon**

*Retired Area Office Manager with Ontario Hydro, a Mason with the London Lodge of Perfection and member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #636 Minden*

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Norm Michael MacKinnon. Norm was born in Noranda, Quebec on September 16th, 1946. Norm fought a brave battle with cancer and passed away Sunday, December 18th with his family by his side at the Haliburton Hospital.

Norm will be missed by his loving wife and best friend Glad Mackinnon, his oldest son John (Jocelyn, Jack, Matt, and Maddy), his daughter Pamela (Dale, Colton, Clayton), and his youngest son Marc (Irina, Mischa, and Maya). Norm was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and cherished friend.

Glad and Norm were married for 56 years and bought their home on South Lake in 1979. Norm was an avid outdoor enthusiast and loved teaching his kids and grandkids how to fish and enjoy nature walking on the blue trail at his woodlot. Norm and Glad enjoyed spending time in Florida where they made many friends. Norm was a proud employee of Ontario Hydro for 28 years and subsequently owned a small business distributing Cottage Life in the Haliburton Highlands area. Norm will be missed by so many and never forgotten. His family will be holding a Celebration of Life in the spring.

There are no words to express how thankful we all are for kindness, support and helping us with so many unknowns during these difficult times and for all the love and support we all have felt from thoughtful neighbours, friends, doctors and staff at the Haliburton Hospital in both the emergency and hospital departments.

Life is much easier to accept knowing that Norm is in a better place. Pain free and as a family we will continue to make him proud of us all.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



[www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)

## 640 IN MEMORIAM

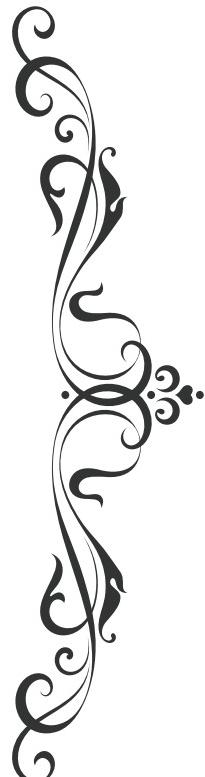
*In Loving Memory of*

**My Son Kevin Isaacs**  
*(Jan 9, 1962 - Jan. 29, 2013)*

**My Daughter Carole Murphy**  
*(Jan. 8, 1958 - Oct. 16, 2016)*

*May the winds of love blow softly  
 And whispers so you'll hear  
 We will always love and miss you  
 And wish that you were here*

Forever loved and remembered,  
 Love Mom & Family



**Bryan Barry**  
*(Resident of Haliburton)*

Peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on the afternoon of January 4th, 2023 in his 79th year. Beloved husband of Anna Barry, loving father of Curtis Barry, and his wife Zobie Ghany. Loving stepfather of Paul Cowen and his wife Lisa Robertson and Liesa Morson (deceased) and her husband Steven Morson. Cherished papa of Keira and step-papa of Ava. Brother of Beryl (Murray), Wayne (Linda), Grenville (Brenda), Dale (Wayne-Deceased), and Phil (Sharon). Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Bryan was a musician who enjoyed singing and playing guitar for residents of Extendicare for many years and jamming with his friends in the band Northern Jam.

### Graveside Service

A Graveside Service will be held at the Maple Lake United Church Cemetery in the Spring. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #129 would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

[www.communityfuneralhomes.com](http://www.communityfuneralhomes.com)

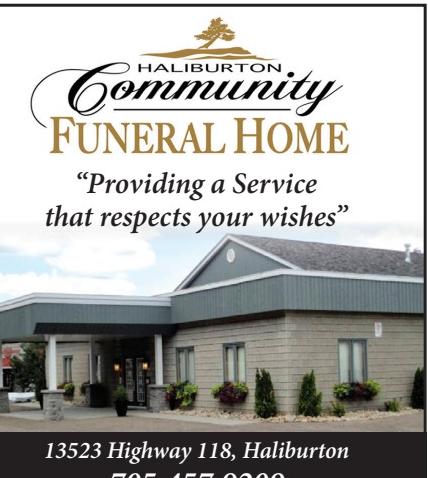
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Tuesday, January 3, 1995

## Computer networks funding approved

by Andrew Milne

Seven schools in the local board of education will be outfitted with cable for local area networks as of the summer of 1995.

The \$236,000 project, funded under the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program, will involve Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School, Dorset Elementary School, Gooderham Elementary School, Archie Stouffer Elementary School, Wilberforce Elementary School, Cardiff Elementary School, and the board's head office in Haliburton.

The local area networks — in which the computers at a single location or building are cabled together so they can rapidly and easily share information, will eventually all be linked into a single wide area network, so that computers at one school can share information with computers at another location altogether, says board of education chair John Munro.

There are a number of advantages to having the networks in place, says Munro.

First of all, he says, it saves money on hardware. With the network in place,

(more on page 2)



The warm caress of the sun, a gentle breeze, crystal clear tropical waves gently lapping at the hull of the ship, cares slowly slipping away like the feathery clouds across the azure sky....no this isn't Minden and this photograph is probably just about as close to this halcyon setting as most of us will get this winter. However, this is where Kirsten Anthon, daughter of Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Jean Anthon and Ted Anthon, goes to work. She is a member of a team studying the habits of whales in the Pacific Ocean. The story of her work, far from the cold and snow of the Haliburton Highlands, starts on page 6.

Photo by John Atkinson

## They're coming to Minden from across North America

January 21 and 22 is fast approaching and entries are coming in from across North America for the 1995 edition of the Minden Techni-Cal Challenge Sled Dog Derby.

Three competitors who have already registered for the 11th annual event are from the three southwestern-most states in the U.S.

Leigh Manning of New Mexico has three teams entered, while Charlie Odegaard of Arizona has two teams signed up and Ralph Whitten of California will be back with his team.

A little closer to home are Pennsylvania's Rob Downey, Ed Clifford of New Hampshire and Terry Killam of Massachusetts. Prince Edward Island's Ron Bernard is also a confirmed competitor.

Reigning champion Neal Johnson of Rothsay, Minnesota is not expected to return to defend his title this year. He is scheduled to be in Alaska at the time of the Minden event.

The Levesque brothers, Paul-Emile and Wilson from Quebec will be competing and the husband and wife team of Stu and Michelle Ostoff of Minnesota have also indicated that they will be back.

Of course, local sled dog racers Steve and Val Lougheed will be in the thick of the competition again this year.

Stu Brandon, one of the organizers of the event, says he expects at least as many racers as last year. Registrations to date reinforce that prediction. He added that no entries from either Alaska or British Columbia have come in yet, but some are expected from the western part of the continent before the deadline of January 18.

The Minden event is the largest limited class sled dog race in the world.

"If you want to win the big money and get the big points, you have to come to Minden," Brandon said.

Even with the talent and vast geographical area already represented, Brandon said: "We should start seeing entries coming in hot and heavy any day now. There's always a flurry as the deadline gets close. After the first of January we get several every day. So far, we have about what we'd expect for this time of year."

"Sled-dog racing is really growing by leaps and bounds," Brandon added. "There seems to be a real increase in interest in the sport."

### The professionals

Sled-dog racing is like anything else: there are the wannabees and there are the professionals. And as always, the professionals — both the drivers and the dogs — make it look easy.

Imagine handling a vehicle with no steering wheel,

modest brakes, and a throttle stuck wide open. Your only control is the rapport you have with the engine. You've built that rapport over months of daily care and training. On race day, it all has to come together.

Fortunately, the dogs are professionals too. They do this for a living and they take their responsibilities seriously. They've been bred to it for generations and trained to it from an early age.

Like human athletes, some canine physiques are more suited to success in sports than others. The fastest dogs are a husky/hound cross called Alaskan or polar huskies. They are on the small side compared to most people's idea of a husky — about 45 pounds — and lean like a human marathon runner.

The Minden Techni-Cal Challenge offers professional sled-dog racing at its best. It combines the most challenging race course on the continent and the largest purse in North America. As a result, it attracts the top professional sled-dog racers and the finest canine athletes from across Canada and the United States. They compete for money — \$25,100 provided by race sponsor Martin Pet Foods — and for maximum points towards international medals.

So accept no substitutes. Insist on the real thing when it comes to Minden's Main Street on January 21 and 22.

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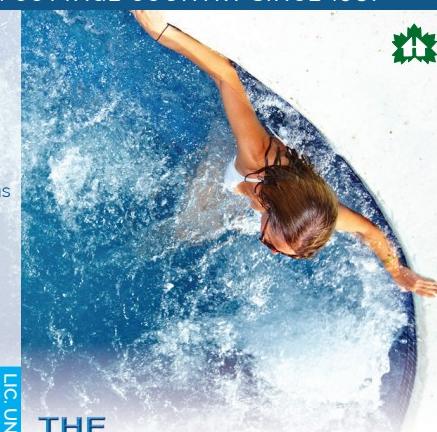
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